

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract of the disclosure as follows:

~~The invention relates to a~~ A process for the production of polylactide, the stages of which for the production and purification of lactide, starting from an aqueous solution of lactic acid or of its derivatives, ~~comprise:includes~~ evaporation of ~~the~~ water with formation of oligomers, depolymerization to give lactide, condensation and then crystallization of the crude lactide product to give purified lactide, aqueous treatment of the residual fractions from the crystallization and polymerization of purified and/or prepurified lactide to give polylactide in an extruder and in the presence of catalysts. An alternative ~~consists in~~ process ~~includes~~ carrying out the aqueous treatment before the crystallization.